

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A defect managing method for a recording medium, comprising:  
recording and/or reproducing information indicating whether a particular one of the defective units of the recording medium is to be replaced or left unreplaced by a designated replacement unit;  
determining whether a defective unit, of the plurality of defective units, is to be replaced or left unreplaced according to the information representing replacement or non-replacement of the defective unit.
2. The defect managing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information representing replacement or non-replacement indicates a plurality of defect management modes and is recorded in a reserved area of a disc definition structure (DDS) of the recording medium.
3. The defect managing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recorded information further includes a start sector number of the defective block and a start sector number of a replacement unit in a secondary defect list (SDL) of the recording medium.
4. The defect managing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recording of the information further comprises leaving only a start sector number of the defective unit in a secondary defect list (SDL) of the recording medium, storing information representing that the defective unit has not been replaced in a Forced Re-Assignment Marking (FRM) bit of the SDL indicating whether the defective unit has been replaced, and storing information representing that the defective unit has not been replaced in a start sector number of a corresponding replacement unit in the SDL.
5. The defect managing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information representing replacement and/or non-replacement of the defective unit includes positions of the defective unit and a corresponding replacement block.